

Assemblyman  
**PAUL KORETZ**  
Forty-second Assembly District



*proudly representing the communities of West Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, Century City, Westwood, Bel Air, Brentwood, West Los Angeles, Hollywood, Hancock Park, Universal City, Studio City, and Sherman Oaks*

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**CDC Releases Physician Guidelines 4 Years Late**  
**Koretz Says Unnecessary HIV Infections Resulted**  
*Release of California Guidelines Await Schwarzenegger's Approval*

**(Sacramento)** - Assemblyman Paul Koretz (D-West Hollywood) today commented on the release by the Federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC) of new guidelines for the use of antiretroviral drugs to help prevent HIV infection following sexual exposures and injection drug use. The treatment called Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) requires snap decisions by doctors who must initiate a 2-4 week regime of antiretroviral drugs within 72 hours after a possible HIV exposure.

"The development of non-occupational PEP guidelines at the CDC was well under way at the end of the year 2000, but came to a virtual standstill in the Bush Administration's CDC. While prudish political appointees delayed the CDC release for four years, thousands of unnecessary HIV infections may have occurred and still more unnecessary PEP treatments may have been prescribed," said Koretz.

In 2003, Assemblyman Koretz took the matter into his own hands with a bill in the California Legislature authored by Koretz and signed by Governor Gray Davis. AB 879 instructed the California Department of Health Services to issue state-approved physician guidelines for using post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) in cases of non-occupational exposure to HIV. After more than a year of bureaucratic delay brought on partly by the transition to new leadership at the state Department of Health following the election of Governor Schwarzenegger, the Department now says the California guidelines are pending the Governor's approval.

"The fact that politicians are uncomfortable talking about sexual exposures to HIV is no reason to withhold vital information from doctors. The CDC announcement came literally during the Inauguration festivities in Washington, no doubt in an attempt to minimize press attention. What these officials fail to see is that their shame in discussing sex is misplaced. The real shame is their failure to transmit life-saving information to doctors in a timely manner," commented Koretz.

Without guidelines, many doctors have been uncertain about the circumstances that warrant the use of PEP for sexual exposures and what drugs should be used. The CDC guidelines can be viewed in the January 21 issue of the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report at [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5402.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5402.pdf).

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